and are committed to providing adequate protection to domestic producers through WTO compatible measures.

Expansion of Indian deep sea fishing fleet

1647. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Marine Products Export Development Authority has made any recommendation to expand the Indian deep sea fishing fleet;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many deep sea fishing vessels are required according to the Marine Products Export Development Authority to meet the requirements and exports;

(d) whether the Marine Products Export Development Authority would fund some of the purchase of such boats; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the report of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), the following types of deep-sea fishing vessels would be required to exploit available deep sea resourses:

Type of Vessel	Nos.
Tuna long liners vessels registered length 24 metres and above	100
Tuna long liners/gill netters/mechanised vesels	500
Tuna purse-seiners	10
Pole & line vessels	50
Squid jiggers	10
Vertical longline/trap fishing	20
Pelagic/mid-water trawlers	10
Pilot project for Myctophids	2

(d) and (e) A scheme has been approved by the Goverment for extending financial assistance to deep sea/mechanized fishing vessles for converting to mono-filament tuna long liners to harvest the tuna resources. Under the scheme, MPEDA provides financial assistance @ 50% of the cost for modification of deep-sea fishing vessels up to a maximum of Rs. 15 lakh and a maximum of Rs. 7.50 lakh for mechanized vessels for converting to mono-filament tuna long liner.

Special assistance for development of tea industry in Assam

1648. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to give special assistance for the development of tea industry in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the time-frame fixed for the purpose; and

(c) whether the industry would also be required to contribute its own share for the purpose in addition to the Government's assistance and if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to grant any special assistance for the development of tea industry in Assam. However, Government proposes to set up a Special Purpose Tea Fund for financing replantation and rejuvenation of old tea bushes, which would be available to all tea gardens in the country including Assam. Financing from the Special Purpose Tea Fund would include borrowers' contribution, the exact quantum of which is being finalized.

FDI in townships in SEZs

1649. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 100 percent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in townships does not apply to projects located in Special Economic Zones;